

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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O R 231909Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3375

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FRAGA IRIBARNE RETURNS TO MADRID POLITICAL SCENE

1. ACCORDING TO ORTI BORDAS, A CLOSE COLLEAGUE OF NATIONAL MOVE-
MENT LEADER, SOLIS RUIZ, FRAGA IRIBARNE ARRIVED IN MADRID THE
EVENING OF OF OCT 23. FRAGA TOLD SOLIS TWO DAYS EARLIER IN A
TELECON FROM LONDON THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN THE
GOVT-SPONSORED POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS SCHEME PROVIDED THAT THE
GOVT ACCEPTED HIS PROGRAM WHOSE MAJOR POINT IS PROPOSAL FOR
UNIVERSAL, SECRET ELECTIONS TO THE "CORTES." SOLIS, WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO FRANCO WHOSE HOUSEHOLD ADVISERS TURNED DOWN FRAGA'S
PROPOSALS LAST FEBRUARY, TOLD FRAGA THAT HE COULD COUNT ON
QTE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT UNQTE.

2. IN ORTI'S VIEW, FRAGA'S LIGHTNING VISIT--HE IS SCHEDULED TO
LEAVE HIS DIPLOMATIC POST IN LONDON IN MID-NOVEMBER--IS SIGNI-
FICANT AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE MOVE TO GET FRANCO TO RESIGN
(SEPTELS). IT INDICATES FRAGA'S ESTIMATE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF
CHANGE AND HIS INTENTION TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE IMMEDIATE
TRANSITION PERIOD. ACCORDING TO ORTI BORDAS, FRAGA'S UNDER-
STANDING WITH SOLIS WILL PROBABLY TRIGGER DECISIONS BY OTHER
EMBROYO POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS TO STEP FORWARD, THEREBY GIVING
AN APPRECIABLE BOOST TO THE ARIAS/SOLIS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM. THEY HOPE FRAGA WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE
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AGGLUTINIZATION OF FORCES TO SUPPORT THE ANTICIPATED CHANGE

IN HEADSHIP OF STATE AND CUT THE GROUND FROM UNDER THE ILLEGAL
OPPOSITION WHICH SEEKS CONSTITUTIONAL QTE RUPTURE UNQTE.

3. FRAGA SCENTS THE PRIME MINISTRY, AND HIS COOPERATION IN
A TRANSITION IS QUITE IMPORTANT. BUT HE IS NOT AS
POPULAR WITH THE SPANISH ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING THE MILITARY,
AS HE IS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS. MANY HERE DESCRIBE HIM AS
OPPORTUNISTIC AND A SENIOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TOLD
THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY THAT THEY WERE DISTRUBED BY HIS
CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNIST-MANIPULATED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA."
STABLER

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